



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 8, 2024

Police Chief Meyer
Whitewater Police Department
312 West Whitewater Street
Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190

Chief Meyer,

I recently read your letter to President Joe Biden requesting assistance due to the large influx of new migrants to the City of Whitewater. As you are aware from our work on this issue, you and the people of Whitewater have my strong support for your efforts, and I can assure you that I will continue to work on resolving these challenges. I have visited our southern border multiple times, most recently this January, and saw firsthand how dire the situation has become. I am working to force the Biden administration to change course to secure the border and stop the flow of illegal migrants into the U.S. and places like Whitewater.

It is evident through the multiple meetings we have had on this topic that your motivation is supporting your officers and serving the people of Whitewater. Illegal immigration is a complex and multifaceted issue that requires a collaborative response, and I appreciate your continued work with my office.

Our country has a broken legal and illegal immigration system. Our first order of business needs to be restoring sanity in our border policies and fixing the humanitarian crisis at the southern border. Communities like Whitewater will continue to struggle to properly serve their residents and maintain public safety until our border is secure.

As you noted in your letter to President Biden, Whitewater is a city of approximately 15,000 people that has been forced to deal with an influx of 800-1,000 migrants arriving primarily from Nicaragua and Venezuela in the last two years. The addition of roughly 1,000 migrants in your community has strained your officers and their resources, making your department unable to serve your residents properly. Big cities like Chicago and New York often receive national attention when undocumented immigrants arrive in their cities; however, smaller communities like Whitewater are often overlooked even when their burdens greatly increase.

To secure our border, protect our local communities, and restore sanity to our immigration system, I am working to enact the Secure the Border Act (H.R. 2), which passed the House with my support on May 11, 2023, by a vote of 219-213 and now awaits consideration in the Senate. This legislation would take immediate action to end catch-and-release, re-institute the Remain in Mexico agreement, expand the use of expedited removal, cease exploitation of parole authority, and would resume border wall construction. H.R. 2 would also end family separations, address

the human trafficking crisis, and increase criminal penalties for illegal entry and visa overstay. Lastly, the bill would make aliens who are convicted of certain crimes ineligible for asylum, including child abuse, domestic violence, and gang-related crimes.

I have also taken multiple actions to address our border crisis by supporting additional funding for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program, which provides assistance to law enforcement agencies to target drug traffickers. I have also written to President Biden urging him to maintain Title 42 authority, which gives the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) the ability to immediately expel migrants that would otherwise be detained or released into our communities in the U.S. This has led to the infiltration of Mexico's Gulf Cartel in Whitewater. The cartel is running illegal operations in the city such as drug and sex trafficking and selling fraudulent ID documents.

The safety of families and children in Whitewater is my priority. The illegal activity in our community caused by the border crisis is why I'm working to force the Biden administration to change course and implement policies that will secure the border.

As always, please continue reaching out to me and my office for any assistance we can provide, and thank you for your service to the City of Whitewater.

Sincerely,



BRYAN STEIL
Member of Congress